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subsistence from the mass of human activities will find his audience ready for him. Mr. Higgs does not do this, but the more modest task, which he does undertake, is performed with a care and judgment which make his 'Lectures' a valuable contribution to the history of economic theories.

H. R. S.

*A Critical Study of Nullification in South Carolina.* By DAVID F. HOUSTON, A. M. Pp. 175. Price, \$1.25. New York: Longmans, Green & Co., 1896.

This monograph supplies a readable presentation of certain sides of the nullification controversy. The work is not intended as a general history of the subject but rather as a sketch of the internal development of the doctrine in a single state of the Union. The author traces the various stages of the movement from the earliest symptoms of discontent in 1816-1820 down to the frank enunciation of the doctrine in 1833. The chief merit of the monograph lies, not so much in the discovery of new facts—to which indeed the author makes no claim—but rather in showing the intimate connection which existed between the doctrine of nullification and its underlying causes. The institution of slavery rendered impossible the introduction of manufactures into the South and made it dependent for its prosperity on the sale of cotton, a commodity whose price had begun to fall. The older states of the South, therefore, declined in prosperity in competition with the newer and more fertile regions opened to cultivation. The acute feeling of discontent arising from these conditions vented itself in attacks on the tariff which was regarded as the cause of all the evil. Some justification for this complaint was given by the grasping and selfish policy pursued by the Eastern and Middle States, and added causes of irritation were found in the supposed tendency of the federal government to increase its powers in other directions as well as in the open attacks on slavery made in the halls of Congress by Northern representatives.

As to the significance of the nullification movement the author points out that, although the nullifiers originally contemplated secession only as a remote possibility, the continued action of the real causes which produced the doctrine of nullification lead inevitably to the movement to dissolve the Union. "By 1832 the feelings of a majority of South Carolinians were alienated from the Union . . . many of her wisest and most far-sighted citizens felt that the final struggle was only a matter of time."

JAMES T. YOUNG.